

**RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 19**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY PUBLIC NUISANCE EXISTS  
IF CERTAIN CRITERIA IS MET AND AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ZIKA VIRUS**

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland adopted, on June 6, 1989, a Resolution Designating County Departments to Investigate and Issue Citations for Nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution designated the Health Department to investigate, determine the existence of and issue citations for nuisance conditions described in Worcester County Code of Public Local Law, Public Health Section 1-101(a)(3) which states, the existence of any of the following conditions in the County, which are found to be dangerous or prejudicial to the maintenance of property values, health, safety or general welfare of the people of the County by the duly designated County department or official, are hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance - "Any placing, leaving, dumping or accumulation of rubbish, household trash or junk causing or threatening to cause a fire hazard, or causing the inhabitation therein of rats, mice, snakes, or vermin of any kind or the accumulation of stagnant water causing or threatening to cause the breeding of insects which is or may be dangerous or prejudicial to the public health"; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization ("WHO") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have issued health advisories concerning the spread of the Zika virus. Zika virus is spread to people through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito or through sexual contact from an infected male to a female. Aedes species mosquitos are present in Maryland and specifically in Worcester County. The Zika virus infection can cause illness in humans and the Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects; and

WHEREAS, the presence of Aedes species mosquitos in connection with the presence of Zika virus in humans in Maryland creates a public health threat as well as a public health nuisance requiring immediate targeted mosquito control activities to include dumping, covering, discarding or otherwise modifying water-holding containers; treating any water holding containers that cannot be dumped, covered, discarded or otherwise modified with long-lasting larvicide; and treating the outdoors in a specified area with adulticide. These measures also may include trapping and testing mosquitos in a specified area; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DHMH") and the Maryland Department of Agriculture ("MDA") have determined that targeted mosquito control activities are necessary to protect the public health and prevent the spread of Zika virus in the following circumstances: (a) any detection of Ae. aegypti mosquitos in an area; (b) detection of threshold levels of Ae. albopictus mosquitos are reached in an area; or (c) detection of a potentially viremic case of Zika virus infection in a given area; and

WHEREAS, the County declares that if any of the above three conditions are met as determined by the Worcester County Health Officer or their designee there is an emergency nuisance under Public Health Section 1-102(f) presenting a clear and present danger to the health or safety of the public, and the County authorizes the Health Department along with the Departments of Development Review and Permitting and Environmental Programs to abate the nuisance immediately by minimizing or eliminating, to the extent reasonably practical, the potential breeding conditions or locations of the targeted mosquito populations in accordance with Public Health 1-102(f) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland; and

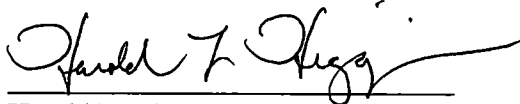
WHEREAS, said abatement may require the assistance of an outside contractor and in such emergency circumstances the County Commissioners have waived the bidding requirements to hire said contractor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland, that in accordance with Public Health 1-101(a)(3) and 1-102(f) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland, abatements related to the Zika virus are an emergency situation presenting clear and present danger to the health of the public and as such require an emergency abatement in accordance with this Resolution.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

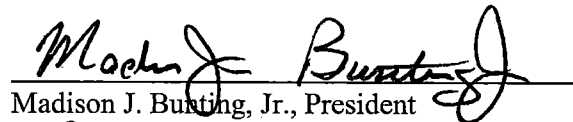
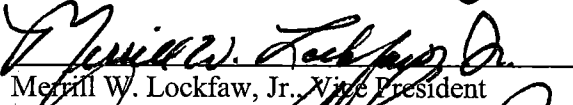
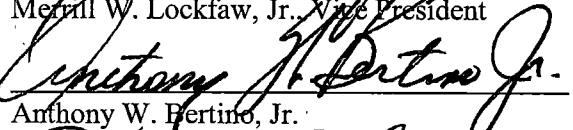
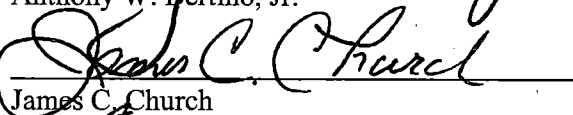
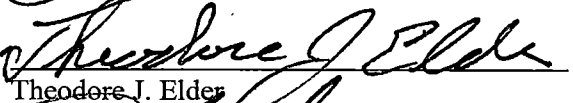
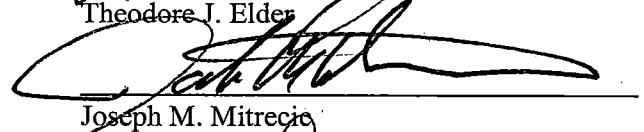
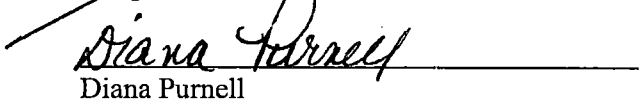
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

ATTEST:



Harold L. Higgins  
Chief Administrative Officer

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

  
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